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Hebron Man Announces Bid for Governor

by Lauren Yandow

A new Democratic candidate has officially joined the race for Connecticut state governor in 2018.

Sean Connolly, 43, of Hebron, made the announcement Wednesday, speaking in front of family, members of the Hebron American Legion Post, and supporters at the Augie & Ray's restaurant in East Hartford.

Connolly – who up until this week was the commissioner of the state Department of Veterans Affairs – told the crowd gathered that he is “launching an exploratory campaign for governor to ensure and expand Connecticut opportunity to give every citizen of our state, every citizen, a fair shot no matter who they are.”

Shortly before making his announcement Wednesday, Connolly told the *Rivereast* the idea to run for governor came after “getting a lot of encouragement” from veterans and citizens across the state, for him to “bring a new type of leadership” to Connecticut. “We have to come to the table together and get things done,” he said.

The state needs leadership that “puts service over politics and special interests,” he added.

Connolly said being governor would mean “building relationships and getting results because at the end of the day that’s what the people of the State of Connecticut want – they want solutions.”

Connolly said while he hasn’t run for elective office before, he has had experience in leadership and public service. He plans to bring that service to the table by getting “beyond poli-

tics” and holding “service over politics” in order to achieve “real results” for the state.

On Wednesday, Connolly stepped down from his position with the Department of Veterans Affairs, a position he’s held for the last two and a half years.

Connolly said serving over 200,000 Connecticut veterans has been an “honor” and a “privilege” because of the “selfless” men and women who serve.

If Connolly wins the election, he said he’ll continue to serve as lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves.

An East Hartford native, Connolly has said a love for his country was first ingrained in him at a young age by his father, Michael Connolly – who came to America from Ireland in 1966.

“Connecticut was once a place of opportunity that brought my father and grandparents here,” he said during his speech Wednesday. “It can be that place again.”

Connolly holds an undergraduate degree from Bryant University and a Juris Doctor from The Columbus School of Law of The Catholic University of America.

During his junior year at Bryant University, Connolly was awarded an Army Reserve Officers’ Training Crops Scholarship, which would eventually lead to a career in the armed forces.

According to a press release, Connolly served for more than seven years on active duty in a variety of positions. A veteran of Opera-

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On Wednesday, Sean Connolly, 43, of Hebron, announced he’s seeking the Democratic nomination for governor. Photo by Allison Lantieri.

Propane Cooker Likely Cause of St. Clements Fire

by Elizabeth Regan

A fire that broke out during a June wedding at the Port-Hampton Marina Club has been ruled accidental by the local fire marshal’s office.

East Hampton Deputy Fire Marshal and lead investigator Joey E. Guest said Tuesday the fire was likely caused by a propane cooker being used to boil water in an outdoor cooking area on the back deck.

Guest’s fire investigation report, released last week, concluded the fire started on the deck situated outside the kitchen door. The blaze traveled into the attic space and then through the ceiling into the 7,788-square-foot clubhouse.

A broader investigation by the state Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit is still open. Connecticut State Police Sgt. Wilfred Blanchette said this week the case is in its “ending stages.”

The marina club is part of Saint Clements Castle and Marina, which straddles East Hampton and Portland. The 90-acre site is owned by the Roncalli Institute, a collection of businesses, nonprofit organizations and trusts overseen by chairman Edward Doherty.

The clubhouse that caught fire was not permitted or taxed as a banquet facility. Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli and

Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell have since told Saint Clements’ management to stop holding events there until the appropriate zoning, building and public health approvals are secured.

The call for the June 25 fire came in at 1:18 p.m., according to the Portland Fire Department. Portland firefighters, who were joined by departments from East Hampton and six other towns, turned over the scene to the East Hampton fire marshal’s office once the fire was extinguished.

Despite having identified the pressure cooker as the probable culprit, the official investigation report does not include discussion of an ignition source. Guest said that’s because he has not gone through the rigorous scientific process of proving exactly how the fire started.

State statute only requires local fire marshals to determine the “cause, origin and circumstances” of a fire – not necessarily the source.

Investigators are limited to four choices when it comes to determining the cause of a fire: accidental, incendiary, natural or undetermined.

More information on the circumstances of the fire is included in witness statements that

are being withheld, pending the completion of the state fire investigation, Guest added. One of the witness statements came from an employee of the Port-Hampton Marina Club who was transported to Middlesex Hospital from the scene for evaluation.

Heavy fire, smoke and water damage occurred throughout the building because “the fire was able to sustain combustion for a considerable amount of time before penetrating to the inside due to the eaves and the attic and an open ceiling and attic area,” the report said.

The fire investigation team also included East Hampton Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier and a special agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), according to the report.

Blanchette said ATF Special Agent Kevin Mileto is part of a task force with the state Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit. Mileto was brought in because the special agent is required to investigate a certain number of fires to maintain his certification – not because the Saint Clements fire involved alcohol, tobacco, firearms or explosives.

But the ATF does “bring special resources should we need them,” Blanchette added.

Possible Code Violations

The clubhouse of the 4.96-acre Port-Hampton Marina Club passed inspection by Klotzbier as recently as November of last year. Despite the building’s status in the assessor’s department as a storage facility, fire marshal’s records show Klotzbier authorized it for events with a maximum of 295 guests.

The local fire investigation report noted the facility had smoke detectors and a fire alarm. It did not have a sprinkler system.

When asked by the *Rivereast* if the banquet facility should have had a sprinkler system, Guest said the answer is not clear in the state fire code. He said he put in a request with the state fire marshal’s office and the state building official for a formal clarification.

Guest said he was not aware of any fire code violations that contributed the fire. But he is still reviewing documents and waiting for information from other departments about fire code violations not directly related to the fire that may have been present.

“We haven’t made a decision if we’re going to move forward,” he said.

East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox said

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tion Iraqi Freedom, he was a prosecutor and brigade legal advisor with the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault at Fort Campbell in Kentucky – as well as in Kuwait and Iraq.

He also served as assistant legal advisor and executive officer for the appointing authority for military commissions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Connolly has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He’s also entitled to wear the Air Assault Badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

Connolly was a senior associate at Greenberg Traurig, LLP in Washington, D.C. – as a member of the government contracts and Homeland Security practice groups.

Connolly is a member of the 101st Airborne Division Association, the Association of the United States Army, and the Army Aviation Association of America. He also served as a member of the national board of directors of the Federal Bar Association and is a past president of the Pentagon chapter of the association.

Connolly returned home to Connecticut in 2010 to join Pratt & Whitney as assistant counsel, supporting the military engines division. While there, he also served as a global ethics and compliance officer. He’s a member of the Hebron American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Connolly has said his military experiences have helped shape him as a parent, saying the

values he hopes to instill in his two sons – Sean, 11, and Brendan, 8 – include the “understanding that we’re blessed with the education that we have and the material things we have” and the concept that “we should give back and serve where we can.”

At Augie & Ray’s on Wednesday, Connolly’s wife, Carol, was all smiles.

“I know he’s going to be a great leader,” she said. The boys “can’t wait to go knock on some doors” with their father, she added, “which is wonderful.”

Carol Connolly said she’s “proud” of her husband for adding “great women leaders and advisors” to his team. In addition, she said she admires him for getting along with Republicans, Democrats and independents. With a mix of all three in attendance for his announcement, she said “it’s a true testament to what a great leader he will be.”

Shortly before he made his announcement Wednesday, Connolly said that, until now, he’s always thought about service, but never about elected office. But, after encouragement from others, he now wants to take the skills he’s acquired from a lifetime of service and apply it to politics.

“I am a man of service,” he said. “I’m not doing this to satisfy anything other than bringing Connecticut the type of service that I think we need at this time,” while working to solve problems and get back on track in order to “re-store Connecticut opportunity.”



In July, Connolly graduated from the United States Army War College with a master’s degree in strategic studies. At the graduation he was joined by his wife, Carol, and two sons Sean, 11 and Brendan, 8

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last week that while detectives with the Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit are not looking at “traditional” criminal charges like arson or reckless endangerment, they have not ruled out the subject of building code violations.

Violation of the Connecticut State Building Code is a crime, according to state statute. Each separate offense is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, six months in prison, or both.

Roncalli Institute President Daniel Loos said Wednesday that all the safety measures in place on the day of the fire were effective in minimizing damage.

“It worked,” Loos said.

There were plenty of exits, he added. Loos also pointed to an alarm system that notified guests about the fire and automatically alerted the fire department.

According to the fire investigation report, wait staff told investigators the alarm did not activate on its own; it was manually pulled in

order to evacuate the building.

East Hampton Fire Chief Greg Voelker said from the scene that the business’s alarm monitoring company sent the call to Portland even though the fire was located in East Hampton. Minutes from the Board of Fire Commissioners show the issue was discussed at its July meeting, during which it was also reported that there were communication problems at the fire due to radio incompatibility between the two departments.

Looking back on the investigation, Guest acknowledged the whole story would be different if someone had died in the fire.

“The potential was definitely there for that to happen,” he said. “That’s why we took as long as we did to look at everything we did look at. Unfortunately, the state law draws a very fine line as far as where criminal negligence is and where it isn’t.”



A fire at a clubhouse on the East Hampton side of the Saint Clements Castle and Marina was accidental, according to a report from the East Hampton fire marshal’s office released more than three months later. No fire code violations have yet been identified at the facility that officials say was operating without the appropriate permits and food service licenses.

CBA Hosts ‘Meet the Candidates’ Night

by Julianna Roche

The Colchester Business Association’s (CBA) “Meet the Candidates” event Tuesday night brought various candidates for municipal office to introduce themselves to association members and, with any luck, secure a vote in the upcoming November election.

The evening led off with an introduction from the sole Colchester Independent Party (CIP) candidate present – Tearice Peters, who is running for a two-year slot on the Board of Finance.

Peters, who has lived in Colchester for 20 years, explained her political experience includes serving on the Charter Review Commission in 2006, being elected to the Board of Assessment Appeals and currently serving as president of the Colchester Concerned Citizens nonprofit group.

“The reason I want to run is that we are basically in unchartered territory right now” regarding how the state budget will affect the town, she said, adding she wanted to help lead the town to “keep us moving in a positive direction... [and to] to continue to prosper.”

The CIP ticket also includes Deanna Bouchard and David Gesiak for the finance board, and Joyce Maine as treasurer.

After Peters spoke, next up were the Republicans, including First Selectman Art Shilosky – who is running unopposed this November.

“I’m looking forward to [the election] because I’m all by myself, so you’re going to be with me for two more years whether you like it or not,” he quipped, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Shilosky added, however, he was serious about establishing “a fiscally sound budget” and seeing the completion of the a senior center, set to be built on a Lebanon Avenue property which was secured by the town last spring.

“I think we’re going to complete those goals with the help of everyone on the Board of Se-

lectmen,” he said.

Stan Soby and Denise Mizla, both veterans to the Board of Selectmen, are also seeking reelection, with Mizla agreeing that she’d like to see “a lot of things started” in her two prior terms as a selectman “come to fruition,” including the senior center and charter revision, with its proposed changes on the ballot in November.

For the Board of Finance, current members Roberta Lepore and Andrea Migliaccio will appear on the Republican ticket. They both have strong finance backgrounds and experience serving on the board.

“We have a lot of trouble coming down from the state, as you know,” Migliaccio said. “The question is what will our Colchester economic situation look like [and] what can we do to help take the edge off.”

Migliaccio said more joint meetings of the boards of education, finance and selectmen, and electing people with experience, could help.

“I need more time on the board,” she said. “I’ve gone through the learning curve [and now] I’d like to be able to serve my town, especially in these difficult times.”

Also on the Republican ticket are Brenden Healy for treasurer; David Anderson for Board of Assessment Appeals; and Mitchell Koziol and newcomer Christopher McGlynn for the Board of Education.

On the Democrats’ side, several newcomers faced the room Tuesday evening – including three candidates eyeing seats on the Board of Education, which will have four out of its seven seats up for grabs this November.

Among those candidates is Amy Cahill Domeika, a Colchester native and Bacon Academy graduate, who explained her reason for running “was simple” – to participate and to be involved.

Domeika furthered that with her son in the

school system, she understood the “education voice” – and that with her mother, a senior citizen, also living in town, she understood “the senior voice” as well.

“How do we bring that all together to find solutions [and] work together with all of the different groups, different parties, different clubs and different organizations? We all want the same thing at the end of the day,” she said. “We want a town to call home and [for] the town to succeed.”

Another newcomer, Nilda Negron, explained she moved her family to Colchester over 12 years ago because of the “exceptional” school system.

“My intentions [as a school board member] are to support the maintenance, the improvement, and the investment of the school education system,” she said, adding she felt that the town needed to be “more inclusive,” and to “collaborate more [and] work together more.”

Mary Bylone, a retired regional vice president of patient care services for Hartford Healthcare, explained she also has a background in education, graduating from college as a teacher prior going into nursing.

“I’m a person who leads with curiosity,” she said. “I never saw challenges as roadblocks. Just tell me what we need to do to get it done. Sometimes the first approach is not successful, [but] I look forward to bringing a fresh set of eyes” to the board.

“I think there are a lot of questions that need to be asked,” Bylone continued, adding that while she liked “to lead,” she considers herself to also “not be judgmental” and enjoys “to hear questions and solutions from people.”

Mike Egan and newcomer Michael Hayes, meanwhile, are slated to run as Democratic candidates for Board of Finance seats.

Egan had previously served on the education board for nine years and as chairman of

the building committee behind the new Jack Jackter Intermediate School. He explained he felt that coupled with his professional experience as an engineer would be assets to serving on the finance board.

“I think I can hopefully make a difference moving this town forward, making sure we don’t go backward,” he said.

Hayes, who has lived in town for the last five years, has also served on the Sewer and Water Commission and as a volunteer for the Registrar of Voters – and while he’s a new face to the Colchester political scene, he said he has “attended every possible meeting for the Board of Finance, Board of Education and every other town meeting” he could go to “educate myself on how to operate and set a budget for the town.”

Hayes furthered that if elected; he “will move the town of Colchester forward in a fiscally responsible manner” and “hear opinions from both sides about what they think should be done.”

For the Board of Selectmen, veterans Rosemary Coyle and Jim Ford are slated to run, with Coyle having served on the board since 2007 and Ford previously serving on the board for two terms.

Coyle explained that education as well as senior services were “issues near and dear to [her] heart,” and that she felt it “really important” that “every constituency, every group, every business, from parents to first responders” must “be prudent” with their resources in order to make “good financial decisions.”

“We don’t need to put one constituency against the other. We need to balance those resources,” she said.

Also on the Democratic ticket are John Ringo for treasurer, and Denise Turner and Andrew Cournoyer for Board of Assessment Appeals.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

New ‘Welcome to Colchester’ Sign Unveiled

by Julianna Roche

As residents and visitors to Colchester drive off the Route 11 exit ramp and head up Linwood Avenue towards the Town Green, they might notice the addition of a brand new tall-standing white and royal blue sign bannered with the phrase: “Welcome to Colchester – Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow.”

The sign – created by Bacon Academy students – is the first of six welcome signs to be installed at various locations around town and is the result of a project spearheaded by Economic Development Commission (EDC) member Bruce Fox to involve and help liven up the community.

Approximately a year ago, EDC Chairwoman Jean Walsh explained, the commission started a discussion about “different things to do to enhance our community,” including “small projects just to get some excitement [going]” and “put a fresh face on things.”

Fox then proposed the idea of adding welcome signs and acquired help from personal friends, people in the community and local businesses to help fund the project and “get it going,” Walsh said.

Nearly a year later, on Saturday, Sept. 23, the first sign – which was installed with help from Troop 13 Boy Scout members – was finally dedicated and unveiled to the town.

Walsh explained that with each sign costing approximately \$1,000 to make however, fundraising will continue to be “the biggest obstacle” in getting the next five up, but she hopes to spread awareness about seeking help from the community in the meantime.

The first sign depicts the Old Bacon Academy, the Town Green gazebo, and Colchester Federated Church on a tree-filled landscape painted in royal blue color, which pops against the sign’s bright white backdrop.

Walsh added that the sign’s tagline is also significant.

“With [the phrase] ‘where tradition meets tomorrow,’ we are trying to emphasize that although Colchester is steep in history and have an agricultural base, we also have an eye for the future,” she said.

Walsh furthered that to involve Bacon high school students early in the project development stages, Fox “cultivated a relationship” with Bacon Academy Matthew Peel, which ultimately led to art teacher Jodi Mendlinger doling out a homework assignment to students to create a design for the sign. The chosen drawing was one done by student Morgan Clark, which was then refined and sent to the technical education department, where teacher Chris Petersen helped turn it into a sign.

“It is so amazing to have our students given real world opportunities,” Mendlinger said, adding especially “to see that little sketch come to fruition in such a professional manner.”

At the sign’s unveiling, Fox explained that one of his main “hopes” of the project was to involve the entire community, including students.

“This is a town with a great tradition of quality and I believe a greater tomorrow on the horizon for many, many reasons [and] in no small part, its leadership,” Fox said at the sign’s dedication, adding that while it was originally his “hope” to dedicate the sign to memory of the late former first selectwoman Jenny Contois, he also wanted “to involve our students... to take some ownership of the project” so they felt “proud” of the town of Colchester “when ever they see it [the sign].”

“This project has been a team effort all the



The first of six new “Welcome to Colchester” signs, which will be posted in various locations around town to brighten up the community.

way and credit belongs to all those involved,” he added.

Moving forward, Walsh explained the locations for the other five signs are still being discussed. She added that if anyone is interested in donating to the project fund, they can call

860-537-2512.

“We hope to actually stimulate a sense of pride in the town,” Walsh said. “We want to appear to be a more welcoming town [and allow] for people to recognize the key things we have here.”

An Author's Life – Hebron Writer Melissa Crandall

by Lauren Yandow

Sitting on the back deck of her Hebron home with her Australian shepherd, Holly, by her side, author Melissa Crandall, 60, explained how she came to be a writer. “Writing found me,” she said.

While growing up among the “rolling hills” in the little town of Clifton Park, N.Y., – which is midway between Albany and Saratoga – Crandall wrote her first story. She was just seven years old.

With a mother and father who were both avid readers, Crandall said she started reading at a young age. “Books have always been a part of my life, so it just seemed a natural extension for me to want to create my own stories.”

After moving from her home state, Crandall lived in Oregon and Pennsylvania before settling into Connecticut nearly 21 years ago. She and her husband, Ed Everett, spent more than a decade in the Quaker Hill neighborhood of Waterford, but when the area began to grow, they went out in search of the quiet they yearned for. Eventually, they found what they were looking for, in quaint Hebron.

Crandall averages six hours a day on her craft. Sitting herself in front of her computer in the morning she turns the ideas in her mind into stories – only taking breaks to entertain Holly and her rescue cat, Ruby.

“I find that for me to produce to the level that I want to, I need to write every day,” she said, “even if it’s something that I ultimately trash and rework.”

Writing, she said, is a different experience each time.

“I’ve had stories that have appeared full-blown in my head,” she said, and “some where I’ve had a line in the middle of the story or a scene and I’ll work it around that.”

“I never quite know what is going to land on my shoulder and say, “hey, let’s talk.””

Until recently, Crandall predominately wrote “speculative fiction,” a term she likes to use in place of science fiction or fantasy, because she said those genres tend to get “really pigeon-holed.”

Crandall’s first professional sale was the *Star Trek* tie-in novel *Ice Trap*, which was actually written in collaboration with two other writers, Julia Ecklar and Karen Rose Cercone. The three women published the book using the pen name “L.A. Graf,” which stands for “Let’s All Get Rich and Famous.”

From there, Crandall went on to write, under her own name, tie-in novels to TV series *Quantum Leap*, *Earth 2* – and more *Star Trek*.

Star Trek was appealing because “it was the first of the media franchises to really do novels,” Crandall said, adding, “You can really run wild with it, so it was a lot of fun.”

* * *

One of Crandall’s latest projects was about an elephant keeper she first met two decades ago.

In 1997, Crandall and her husband moved to Portland, Ore. Moving was a “difficult transition” because as a “proud upstate-New York native,” Crandall said she felt “isolated” in her new environment. “I was spending a lot of time writing and reading,” but missing the interaction of friends back home.

Looking to fill some time, she took on a volunteer opportunity at what was then known as the Washington Park Zoo, and is now called the Oregon Zoo. There she was teamed up with a man named Roger Henneous to help an elephant named Belle that had fallen ill.

“Here’s this 5-foot-5 nothing, 120-pound string bean of a guy next to these massive elephants,” said Crandall. She added Henneous had the “vocabulary of a longshoreman,” a voice “full of smoker’s gravel,” and a slightly intimidating character.

“It took us about an hour to get comfortable in each other’s company and then he started talking a little bit about his life with the elephants. “I was just enthralled.”

A month went by and Belle no longer needed care. Like “ships in the night we passed, and that was it,” Crandall said. “We had no contact for almost 20 years.”

About two and a half years ago, Crandall said, an idea just popped in her head to write a

story about Henneous, and his relationship with Belle. This led her to try to reach out to him.

Crandall said she contacted the Oregon Zoo and was put in touch with a staff member named Charlie Rutkowski, who used to work in the elephant barn with Henneous. When Rutkowski offered to give Crandall a way to contact Henneous, she said, “I sat down and I wrote him a letter.”

“I told him I’d like to talk with him” and write about his life, she said.

After several weeks, Crandall got the response she was looking for. Henneous, who is now in his 80s, agreed to speak with her once on the phone. During the phone call, “we had such a good time, we talked for I want to say three hours,” and “by the end of that we knew that we were bosom buddies, and something was happening.”

Crandall and Henneous began talking twice a week for three hours at a time. She asked questions and he gave her his answers. Now, two and a half years later, *The Man Who Loved Elephants* is written and Crandall’s agent is working to sell it.

“I always liked elephants,” Crandall said, but added that now, after her talks with Henneous and getting to know the elephants as he knew them, “I’m completely hooked.”

Crandall said to this day she talks to Henneous once a week. “He’s one my best friends.”

* * *

Among Crandall’s other projects is a novella titled *Thicker than Water*, which was published last year in the book *Three On a Match: The Terror Project, Volume 2*. She’s also contributed to *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Power of Forgiveness*, and in 2010 she self-published a novel titled *Weathercock*.

Currently, Crandall said she has “five or six stories out to market.”

Anyone looking to become a professional writer should, Crandall said, “write every day” and “read, read everything, read all across the map” – whether it be history, current events, or



To follow the writing journey of local author Melissa Crandall, check out her blog, MelissaCrandall.com.

science fiction.

She also encouraged people to “find writers that inspire you to write better.”

Crandall said that J.M. Barrie has inspired her most. Barrie’s *Peter Pan* was “one of my first memories,” she said. Other authors of influence include Stephen King, Theodore Sturgeon, Ray Bradbury, Harlan Ellison and Barbara Hanley. “I can guarantee when I’m reading any one of their stories, I can come across a line that is so gorgeous it makes me wish I had written it,” she said.

Crandall also said would-be writers should get involved in their local writing community, just as she has.

“Writers do spend a lot of time alone,” she said, but “it’s nice to be around like-minded people who get it and understand the frustrations and joys of writing.”

Marlborough Town Officials Discuss Budget Options

by Julianna Roche

Town officials met Wednesday for a joint meeting involving the boards of selectmen, finance and education, and the Marlborough members of the RHAM Board of Education, to talk about the impact of the state budget – or lack thereof – on the town.

The members began initial discussions Wednesday regarding how current state budget proposals could affect the town, what options it has moving forward, and the processes it would need to follow should the adopted 2017-18 budget need to be adjusted.

Town attorney Rich Roberts of Halloran and Sage was also present during the meeting and explained to officials they had two potential options should Gov. Dannel Malloy’s executive order resource allocation plan become the basis for state spending in the 2017-18 fiscal year if a state budget is not enacted.

“I think the optimists among us figure at some point people are going to figure out something they can live with [and] that the governor can live with that will hopefully get you something more than zero [in funding],” he said.

But, he added, the current reality didn’t seem as promising.

Roberts cited the two potential options the town would have to cover monetary shortfalls resulting from cuts to funding from the state, which include either sending out supplemental tax bills which “may be annoying to citizens” or dipping into the undesignated fund balance “to fill the hole” created by those budget cuts.

“The problem is, I know you’re going to be short right now, but you don’t know how short you’re going to be at the end of the year if the [state] budget is adopted,” he furthered. “So you can send out supplemental bills based on worst-case scenario and you may be collecting more than you need ... you have no way of knowing.”

Tapping into the undesignated fund balance wouldn’t be a great idea, Board of Finance Chairman Doug Knowlton suggested.

He said the town’s undesignated fund balance currently holds just over \$2 million, which would account for only 7.5 to 8 percent of the town’s approved \$24.11 million spending package for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

“It should be around 10 to 12 percent,” he said. “We’re running at the bottom of where we should be.”

Roberts agreed, adding that “unfortunately, it’s [already] three months into the year and there is no clear road map as to what you can do or what you’re going to get because the legislature hasn’t acted.”

First Selectwoman Amy Traversa explained that in early September, the towns of Marlborough, Hebron and Andover held a meeting with the CEO of each town, chairmen of each of the town’s finance and school boards, the superintendent of each elementary school, and RHAM to discuss the state’s failure to adopt a budget yet; however, because of the uncertainty, no action was taken.

She added that normally on Oct. 1, the town receives the first 25 percent of its Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) funding from the state. But, with no state budget, that didn’t happen this year – leaving the town without \$788,503 it was banking on.

Town Planner Peter Hughes then presented officials with line graphs depicting just three possible scenarios of the 2017-18 fiscal year projections without state revenues and combinations both including and eliminating capital items which were previously approved in the annual budget.

“You need to start planning now because you’re going to have a cut,” Hughes said. “You’re not going to be coming in at 100 percent [of state funding]. It’s just not going to happen.”

Traversa agreed, adding that “the problem is so large, you cannot fix the hole without cuts.”

The state “is done playing ‘kick the can;’ now they’re playing ‘hot potato,’” she furthered, explaining that towns across the state, including Marlborough, still don’t know how devastating the financial “bombs dropped” on them by the state will be yet.

“We’re just trying to give a basic understanding [of the situation] so we start from the same level,” Traversa explained, adding that based on Hughes’ projections, “no matter the scenario” the town will be out of money “some-time around April.”

As the meeting came to a close, all board members agreed to meet with their individual boards to discuss the scenarios and Traversa explained the next joint board meeting would probably be held sometime in November.

Many town officials, including Board of Education and RHAM Board of Education member Sue Rapelye, also spoke on the town’s need to work together in the coming months when deciding on cuts.

“We all need each other,” she said. “If we’re going to work together, I think we all need to respect each other and let the different boards work on their piece and then we come back to the table.”

Board of Finance Vice Chairman Cliff Denniss agreed with Rapelye, stating that he felt the boards should hold off on meeting again until they have more information from the state, as he still “cannot believe that our legislators will allow 85 municipalities to take huge cuts.”

“I just can’t see it happening,” he said.

Knowlton shared similar sentiments, however noted that “a time” was coming when “we’re going to have to put a stake in the ground and make some decisions” about what to cut from the town and education budgets.

“This [issue] has to be a part of our conversation and how we get there is open to discussion,” Traversa said, adding, however, “We need to make sure we’re all understanding what’s potentially coming down the pipe.”

East Hampton Commission OKs Main Street Zone Change

by Elizabeth Regan

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission has approved a change to zoning regulations that would pave the way for prominent local developer Wayne Rand to market properties for professional office use as well as residential use.

Rand submitted the application for the regulation change – known as a text amendment – to expand the part of Route 66 between North Main and North Maple streets that makes it possible for owners to put first-floor offices into existing residential homes.

Rand's requested change adds a 400-foot portion of Main Street to the zone.

When the regulation change goes into effect on Nov. 1, Rand will be able to submit another application – this time, for the actual zone change that would turn 3 Main St. from a residential zone to a professional office/residential zone.

The point of the regulation is to bolster commercial options on Route 66 while retaining the residential character of Main Street, according to the language.

Commissioners voted 4-3 to authorize the zone change. Those against the motion were Roy Gauthier, James Sennett and newly-minted full member Angelus Tammaro.

Gauthier said he could not support the regulation change because it would blur the “nice, clear demarcation” between commercial development on Route 66 and the residential feel on that portion of Main Street.

He worried that extending the office/residential zone this time around would make it hard to reject future requests to extend it again – which could eventually leave all of Main Street filled with professional office buildings and attendant traffic problems.

Angelus echoed some of Gauthier's concerns, which were reflected in public testimony from several residents of the neighborhood.

“I haven't heard a single abutting property owner support this application,” Tammaro said.

Chairman Kevin Kuhr argued it would be wise to approve the extended mixed-use office and residential zone and “see how it develops, see how it all plays out.”

He repeatedly reminded commissioners and the public that the approval only changes the language of the regulation and that actually converting a property to the office/residential use requires a separate zone change application.

The text amendment means the owners of 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10 Main St. would be eligible to apply for the office/residential zoning.

The regulations specifies only one dwelling unit is allowed on a property and the office use is allowed only on the first floor. Eligible uses include professional, administrative and business offices and financial institutions; slightly more regulatory oversight in the form of a special permit is required for printing and publishing offices, public utility structures, fire and police stations and daycare facilities.

Ty Sweet, of 7 Main St., spoke during the public hearing to say he has seen marketing materials available on the property that show Rand is already planning to subdivide it.

According to the Century 21 website, 3 Main St. is listed as a 1.84-acre property for \$279,900.

Another option for the same address offers 1.22 acres for \$69,900. The listing includes a schematic diagram of the property.

The property was purchased by Rand's Main Street Venture LLC in April 2015 for \$250,000. Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli confirmed the property has not yet been approved as a subdivision.

Sweet questioned whether it's legal to advertise a subdivision that has not been approved yet.

DeCarli said that's a question for an attorney.

“Right now I would not be authorized to issue any kind of zoning permits and the building official couldn't issue any building permits because it's not a legal lot,” DeCarli added.

Sweet also questioned why Rand would have drafted language to extend the zone to include four other houses without communicating with the owners.

“He just does what he wants with complete disregard for everyone else on the planet,” Sweet said.

Kuhr said Rand is within his rights to have included all of Main Street if he wanted to; but Sweet argued public outcry would be loud enough that Rand would be rejected by the commission.

That's when someone in the audience could be heard saying “No, he won't. He's Wayne Rand.”

Sweet responded to the anonymous comment: “Why? Does he run the whole town?”

Rand was present at the meeting but declined to speak.

His lawyer, Timothy Furey, said Rand worked closely with DeCarli to craft a regulation change that addresses concerns from a previous zone change application for a commercial zone while also staying true to the town priorities outlined in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Rand had originally filed a lawsuit against the Planning and Zoning Commission last year after it denied his application to turn the residential property into a commercial zone, with litigation still pending. According to court documents, the commissioners had rejected the request because of concerns about increased traffic in the area, in addition to the need to protect “the integrity of historic resources” as outlined in the town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

The property, a 1.84-acre parcel on which sits a yellow colonial home built in 1875, is a contributing resource to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Belltown Historic District. Such homes are protected from “unreasonable destruction” under the Connecticut Environmental Preservation Act.

Furey said during the public hearing that he would initiate talks with the town attorney to withdraw the lawsuit following Wednesday night's meeting if the text amendment was approved.

Furey addressed Sweet's concerns when he described the zoning regulation change as a planning device to further responsible – not selfish – development.

He said owners within the zone who don't

want to be designated as office/residential don't have to apply.

When it comes to the real estate listings touting a subdivision, Furey said only that Rand is exploring “potential marketing options.”

When concerns were expressed by Tammaro and members of the public about Rand's motivation in pursuing the zoning regulation change, Furey said Rand had originally hoped a commercial designation could be achieved so that he could “look to some abutting properties and get a unified development.”

He said the historic home may or may not have been preserved under that scenario.

The new office/residential zone assures preservation, according to Furey.

He repeatedly described the zone as the single tool in the commission's toolbox to promote the redevelopment of significant historical structures and encourage business.

He said there has already been interest from professionals interested in buying the home, renovating it and using it for both an office and a home.

Resident Mark McMillan disputed Furey's assertion there is only one historic preservation tool available to the commission. McMillan identified himself as a professional historian and a specialist in the area of nationally recognized historic properties.

He said grant funding at the federal and state level is available to help promote historic preservation in federally-registered historic districts. He recommended that town officials look into becoming a Certified Local Government, which opens up municipalities to more grants for historic preservation and education.

According to the U.S. National Parks Service, the financial incentives can cover surveys, rehabilitation work, design guidelines, training, structural assessments and feasibility studies, among others.

The Town Council is currently considering applying for Certified Local Government status.

“There are more tools at our disposal,” McMillan said.

EHHS Driveway to Be Named for Fidler

by Elizabeth Regan

Students, teachers and visitors at East Hampton High School may soon be entering and leaving the newly-renovated building on a driveway named for the principal who helped make it happen.

It's the John Fidler Way.

A unanimous vote by the Board of Education paved a path for the tribute to Fidler, who died suddenly on July 30 at the age of 60.

Fidler is survived by his wife, Joan, and sons Jack, 25, and Jeffrey, 23.

Board of Education Chairman Chris Goff announced the proposal at the school board's meeting Monday. He said the driveway, which extends in a semicircle around the school, would be marked by John Fidler Way street signs at the entrance and exit.

The change would not affect the school's address for mailing or navigational purposes, according to Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith.

“We'll build that right into the address,” he said Wednesday. “East Hampton High School, John Fidler Way, 13 North Maple St.”

He said the change would be reflected in

communications like the school website and letterhead.

A bronze plaque to be donated by the Class of 2015 and affixed inside the school's entryway will tell the story of “The John Fidler Way,” according to Smith.

The idea combines typical street naming convention with the fact that Fidler ran the school his way. And the community loved him for it.

Joan Fidler said this week that it was their elder son, Jack, who came up with the play on words.

“And it is pretty appropriate, if you knew John,” she added.

Joan expressed appreciation to the community that has shown a commitment to recognizing John Fidler as a permanent part of its rich history.

“Having a road named after my husband cements the fact for our family that the commitment he made to Belltown is reciprocated by its citizens,” she said in an email. “This is very gratifying and now enduring.”

Goff said he will present the idea to the Town Council at a future meeting, though he does not

believe that naming the driveway requires its approval.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said Wednesday he would have to research the issue to see if a council vote is required.

Other ideas considered by Fidler's family and the school board included renaming the high school after him or selecting one section to bear his name, such as the athletic field, gymnasium, auditorium or the seminar space called the “T-Bell.”

Renaming North Maple Street, on which the high school sits, was also a consideration.

Goff said he initially thought renaming the high school gymnasium for the longtime coach and mentor would be the most fitting tribute. But he said the board's decision came down to “what the family felt comfortable with.”

Goff described the family's choice as “a great way” to honor Fidler.

Resident Thom Cordeiro, a vocal advocate for the high school renovation project, had spearheaded a petition to rename the high school as a memorial to Fidler. It had garnered

685 signatures when he presented it to the school board last month.

But Cordeiro said Wednesday he stands behind the family's wishes.

He said the low-key approach matches Fidler's personality.

“John Fidler in all of this would have been embarrassed we're even having this discussion,” Cordeiro said.

As a group of students waited in front of the high school to be picked up on Wednesday night, sophomore Eli Ripper said naming the campus driveway for Fidler is the right way to remember the principal.

While Ripper said the idea could seem “a bit small” compared to renaming the entire high school or all of North Maple Street, he acknowledged the logistics of the larger, full-scale name changes would be daunting.

The fact that Fidler's wife and children endorsed the “John Fidler Way” is what makes it the best choice, according to Ripper.

“It's definitely a good idea and I think they should go through with it,” he said.

Andover Finance Board Sends ‘Suggestions’ to BOS

by Lauren Yandow

Last Wednesday, Board of Finance Chairman Dan Warren sent a memo to First Selectman Bob Burbank and Town Administrator Joe Higgins, suggesting reductions in town programs and options to cut hours of town services to help offset possible state revenue cuts under Gov. Dannel Malloy’s executive order.

In the memo, a comparison chart breaks down the nearly 80-percent reduction in state municipal aid for the 2017-18 fiscal year under the governor’s executive order.

The general government side of the 2017-18 budget is \$8.51 million, with \$2.22 million budgeted for municipal aid. Under the executive order the town stands to receive just over \$466,000 in state revenue, for a difference of about \$1.75 million.

In order to align with the town budget, town officials “either have to make up the municipal aid revenue with taxes or reduction to the expenditures,” said Warren.

While creating the memo, the Board of Finance looked at adjustments that could be made on a temporary basis and could potentially be restored once a state budget passes, said Warren. The memo is intended to be a “broad-based assessment of the budget without any prejudice or bias,” he added.

The memo lists 12 recommendations to reduce or eliminate different town programs and services, along with some approximate savings if any were implemented. The approximate savings are based on what “could be realistically realized at this point in the budget cycle,” given any action taken by the Board of Selectmen, Warren said. The “very rough” estimates are based on the remaining wages to be paid to employees for the 2017-18 fiscal year, he added.

The suggestions are in areas directly funded by taxpayers.

According to the memo, the finance board has made the following suggestions:

- Freeze all voluntary spending and give power to implement strict spending control over all town agencies to the town administrator.
- Consider asking all town agency heads to reduce expenditures by 10 to 20 percent.
- Consider waiving the annual salaries of se-

lectmen, resulting in savings of approximately \$7,000.

- Reduce the weekly operating hours of Town Hall from about 33 hours to 20 hours, for an estimate of \$27,000 savings. The change would result in Town Hall opening to the public 2 or 2.5 days per week and would reduce spending related to wage employees such as administrative assistants, but not salaried positions like the town clerk.

- Eliminate Fire Department supplemental insurance coverage.

- Limit the use of senior transportation vehicles to medical appointments only.

- Reduce or eliminate funding for senior programs and trips, for a savings of up to \$3,000. Warren said Thursday, funding for grocery runs are not included in the suggested reduction.

- Reduce public staffing to four days per week and implement an overtime freeze, except in emergencies, for an approximate savings of \$27,000.

- Effective Nov. 5 of this year, terminate the town’s participation in the resident state trooper program, for a savings of approximately \$135,000. Eliminating the resident state trooper would likely mean no trooper would be required to be in town between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., said Warren.

- Reduce operating hours of Andover Public Library from 40 to 20 hours per week, for an approximate savings of \$7,500.

- Fund final plow truck lease payment from the unassigned fund balance of \$33,145.

- Reduce operation of the Transfer Station to one day per week, for an approximate savings of \$7,000. In addition, charge \$30 per household for Transfer Station stickers. The memo states the fee would “generate a small amount of revenue,” and will “likely greatly reduce the amount of out-of-town waste being dumped” at the site. No other town in the vicinity operates a transfer station or landfill without a similar policy.

Higgins said this week, the selectmen board is “currently entertaining” the possibility of implementing a Transfer Station policy; he has

yet to discuss the memo with the selectmen board.

On Monday, Burbank said the finance board’s suggestions are “really incidental,” and taking any action on them is “premature” considering a state budget hasn’t been passed.

He added that the suggestion of limiting senior programs and transportation is “really ridiculous.”

During his 11 years in office, Burbank said he’s “built up the fund balance to offset cuts and state grants” but going forward the Board of Selectmen needs to “take a look at the entire thing, which includes the educational budget.”

The school budget is the “only place we can take substantial cuts in without taking away what our residents get,” he said.

But, Warren said the local Board of Education has already gone to “great lengths to articulate” how they can do their part by identifying the amount of reductions they would be responsible for. According to the memo, the district will be cut approximately \$813,000 under Malloy’s executive order.

The memo said the local education board has “already implemented a freeze on discretionary spending” and Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen is working with her business manager to prepare a “monthly cash flow analysis to determine how long the school can operate under the executive order before staff would need to be laid off.”

Doyen said she hasn’t personally seen the memo, but just last week the school board met with the finance board to present “tentative possible reductions” in preparation for the possibility of “substantial cuts.” The school board is continuing to watch all expenditures and has postponed or eliminated “unnecessary things,” she said.

For example, all Andover Elementary field trips have been put on hold, but she said the school “hopes in the near future to reconsider.”

Going forward, Doyen said she plans to “keep daily track” of the impending state budget and hopes both Andover and the state of Connecticut with “get some resolution soon.”

Warren complained the local Board of Education has “clearly communicated” with the Board of Finance on how cuts would impact the school, but the selectmen board hasn’t “done the leg work.”

The point of the memo, he added, was to suggest a set of options for the Board of Selectmen to implement, but “they want to play this game” and say the school should be the one making cuts when there are options on the table for them.

Ultimately, the executive authority to implement changes to the general government budget is in the hands of the selectmen, said Warren.

“I have no time, energy or desire to play this blame game through municipalities,” he added.

While the selectmen have yet to respond to the memo, Warren said that a response isn’t necessarily what he expected.

“I just wanted to make sure that they had an understanding of what the effect is,” he said. “They can take it or leave it.”

When it comes to the looming state budget, “the problem is nobody knows how long this impasse will drag on for and it’s a total crapshoot in terms of making decisions,” said Warren, adding Andover should be aware that “as we continue under this executive order there’s no circumstance in which things stay the same for town residents.”

The question he posed was this: “Do we drastically reduce services or do we drastically increase taxation to fund the budget as it was passed?”

There are consequences to both of those options, he added.

Residents should “make their feelings” heard by communicating with the Board of Selectmen, local school board, regional school board, State Representative Robin Green (R-55), and State Senator Steve Cassano (D-4), said Warren.

Green (R-55) can be reached at cthousegop.com by clicking on the “contact me” tab; To contact Cassano (D-4), go to senatedems.ct.gov and click on the “email and contact” tab.

East Hampton Police News

9/22: Robert Camera, 34, of 152 Prospect St., Middletown, was served with an outstanding warrant for his arrest and charged with sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

9/23: Jay Justin Lemieux, 28, of 8 Echo Farm Rd., Moodus, turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant and was charged with driving while under the influence, operating a motor vehicle with insufficient insurance and failure to drive right, stemming from a May 4 car vs. pole crash, police said.

9/24: Jason Edward Menard, 28, of 51 S.

Main St., was served with two outstanding warrants for his arrest and charged with two separate counts of violation of probation, police said.

9/27: Travis L. Therrien, 31, of 118 Colchester Ave., was issued a summons for operating under suspension and failure to have break lights, police said.

Also, from Sept. 18-24, officers responded to 15 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 14 traffic stops, police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/23: State Police said Matthew Fallon, 43, of 31 Westland Rd., Avon, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway and speeding over 70 mph.

9/27: State Police said Emmanuel Dejesus, 25, of 170 Lawrence St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license/registration, failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple-lane highway, and illegal possession of a narcotic.

9/28: State Police said Lori J. Majewicz, 57,

of 202 Wall St., Apt. 14, Hebron, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway.

9/28: State Police said James B. McIluff, 47, of 163 Pleasant St., Colchester, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

9/30: State Police said Daniel R. Dipietro, 30, of 24 Wilcox St., Apt. 1R, Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and alcohol and speeding over 70 mph.

Police Seek Suspect in Colchester Bank Robbery

by Julianna Roche

Police are searching for a man suspected of robbing the United Bank at 99 Linwood Ave. in Colchester this week.

According to police, at approximately 2:50 p.m. Tuesday, troopers from Troop K-Colchester and detectives from Eastern District Major Crime responded to a report from United Bank employees that the alleged suspect had entered the bank and showed a note demanding money, before fleeing the scene with an undisclosed amount of funds.

No injuries were reported, police said.

The suspect, according to police, is described as a 40- to 50-year-old man, approximately 6’2”, with a medium to large build and a brown goatee-style beard. He was last seen wearing khaki pants, a white button-down shirt and a green camouflage bucket-style hat.

Police ask that anyone who thinks they may have information or may know the identity or whereabouts of the suspect is asked to contact Det. Sean McManaway at 860-465-5421 or text TIP711 with any information to 274637. All calls and texts will remain confidential.



Police are seeking a male suspect, shown above, who allegedly robbed and fled the United Bank at 99 Linwood Ave. on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 3.

Portland Police News

10/2: Andrew Bozzutto, 54, of 78 Lanes Pond Rd., Northford, was charged with illegal sale, sale of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, Portland Police said.

Hebron Police News

9/24: State Police said David M. Krivicky, 51, of 12 Russmar Trail, Columbia, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive right.

9/24: State Police said Alexander Stratton, 23, of 706 East St., Andover, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to wear a safety belt in the front seat.

9/30: State Police said Michael R. Leith, 30, of 92 Shailor Hill Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway.

Colchester Police News

9/24: Colchester Police said two juveniles – including a 16-year-old white male and a 17-year-old white male – were both arrested and each charged with third-degree criminal mischief.

9/24: State police said John M. Stagni, 48, of 1 Robble Rd., Moodus, was arrested and charged with issuing a bad check under \$250 and second-degree failure to appear.

9/25: Colchester Police said they received a report at approximately 11:16 a.m. that an individual shoplifted a bottle of bourbon at the Center Wine and Spirits on Broadway Street on Sept. 24.

9/27: Colchester Police said Heath Gavin, 28, of 54 Midwood Farm Rd., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and breach of peace.

Obituaries

Colchester

John Mazzarella

John Mazzarella passed away peacefully surrounded by his children Monday, Oct. 2. He was 89. John was born and raised in New York, N.Y.

John lived a life of service and was particularly devoted to educational causes. As a young teenager, he volunteered at the Christodora House, a settlement house in his East Village neighborhood, where he was inspired to become a social worker. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from The City College of New York, a Master of Science degree in social administration (the equivalent of MSW) from the School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, and a diploma in professional education from the University of Connecticut.

John dedicated his professional life to the care and education of children, especially those with special needs. He worked in the public school system of Middletown, in the Department of Pupil Personnel and Special Services, for over 28 years, retiring in 1993. He continued serving by working in the Connecticut State Department of Education surrogate parent program for over 12 years as a surrogate parent.

John met his wife of 59 years, Alice Pugh, while they were both graduate students in Cleveland. They lived in Colchester for over 45 years, where they raised their family. John continuously served his community over those years, active in civic affairs and as a communicant of the St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church. He held several elected offices including Colchester Borough Treasurer and Town Treasurer. He also served several terms on the Board of Education, where he was a great advocate for the special education program. He volunteered for commissions and town-wide committees and was an active member of the Democratic Town Committee.

During his years of retirement, he enjoyed traveling across the United States and abroad with his family, including many trips to Italy and to his parents' home towns in Sicily. A devoted father, John is survived by his five children: Ann of Madison, David of Tustin, Calif., Carol Shanmugaratnam and husband, Santhan of West Roxbury, Mass., Susan of Gaithersburg, Md. and Jane of Chestnut Hill, Mass.; as well four nephews and a niece.

John was predeceased by his wife Alice; his parents, Anthony and Lucille (Salamone); as well as by his four siblings, Jean Lee, Anthony, Rosalie Mazzarella and Victor Merrell.

The family will receive guests from 5-7 p.m. today, Oct. 6, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's memory to the Bacon Academy Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 213, Colchester, CT 06415.

Colchester

Howard Arthur Rogers Jr.

Howard Arthur Rogers Jr., "Art" of Knoxville, Tenn., formerly of Colchester, died peacefully at his home Sunday, July 23, at the age of 77.

Born Feb. 4, 1940 in Willimantic, he was the son of the late Howard Arthur Rogers, Sr. and Gertrude Florence (Squires) Lindell.

He is survived by his loving wife of 27 years, Griselda, his five children and many grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Art was predeceased by his sister, Gertrude J. Brady and brother, Roy F. Rogers.

He graduated from Norwich Technical High School in 1958 from the carpentry shop. Mr. Rogers was a proud veteran having served with the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (the "Seabees"). He spent the majority of his life as a Concrete Contractor, a profession he excelled at and thus allowed him to travel and work in many states. A farmer at heart, Art enjoyed growing fruit trees and berry bushes as a favorite pastime after retirement. He will be dearly missed by many.

Graveside services with military honors will be observed at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, directly at the Linwood Cemetery, Route 16, Colchester. There are no calling hours.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester is assisting the family with local arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Jacqueline Duperry

Jacqueline Duperry, 84, of Marlborough, died Tuesday, Oct. 3, at St. Francis Hospital, with her loving family at her side. Born Feb. 22, 1933, in St. John, Maine, she was the daughter of the late Donat and Marie (Jandreau) Duperry.

Jacqueline had worked as a bookkeeper in the construction industry before her retirement. She had resided with her sister and brother-in-law, Doug and Nathalie Thibodeau, in their home in Marlborough for the past 10 years. Jacqueline enjoyed playing cards with Doug as her partner, making puzzles and an occasional trip to the casino.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her two brothers, Bennett and Charles Duperry, two sisters, Winifred Duperry and Esther Charette. She is survived by her sister Nathalie Thibodeau and her husband Douglas of Marlborough; nieces and nephews Lana Kiernan of Colchester, Michael Thibodeau of Amston, Lisa Morin of Marlborough, Peter Charette of Sebastian, Fla., Marie Winiarski of Weatogue, Robert Duperry of Lake Placid, Fla., Elizabeth Schaffer of Wilmington, N.C., Richard Duperry of Dudley, Mass., Paul, Philip and Michael Duperry, all of Ashland, Maine.

Friends may call at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough today, Oct. 6, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 7, at 10 a.m., in St. John Fisher Church, followed by burial in Marlboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447 or to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Mary Pauline Nichols

Mary Pauline (Brothers) Nichols, 78, of North Franklin, formerly of Colchester, widow of the late Fred Lewis Nichols Jr., passed away surrounded by her loving family at home Wednesday evening, Sept. 27.

Born Nov. 23, 1938 in Norwich, she was the daughter of the late Amedee and Pauline (Piechowski) Nadeau. Mary had worked as a certified nurse's aide for the former Colchester Convalescent Home for many years before her retirement.

She was ever devoted to her family and leaves three children, Robert Brothers Jr. of Newington, Michael Brothers and his wife Astrid of Colchester and Denise Paul and her husband Gary of Ledyard (with whom she had most recently made her home); seven grandchildren (and spouses), Kimberly, Stephanie (and Christopher), Jeffrey (and Mallory), Aaron (and Dawnrae), Adam, Andrew (and Kiah) and Tyler; five great-grandchildren, Riley, Elijah, Penelope, Annabelle and Malachi; five stepchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was predeceased by a son, Brian Brothers; two sisters, Irene Cannon and Veronica Baciewski; and a stepson.

The family received guests Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester. The funeral service was observed Monday, Oct. 2, directly at the Franklin Congregational Church, 31 Meeting House Rd., North Franklin. Burial followed in The Plains Cemetery, North Franklin.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Center for Hospice Care SECT, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Andover

Elsie Knapp Nadeau

Elsie Knapp Nadeau, 86, of Andover, formerly of Schenectady, N.Y., passed away peacefully Sunday, Oct. 1, at Windham Hospital in Willimantic. She was the loving wife of the late Mark Nadeau.

Elsie was born April 8, 1931, in Lake Pleasant, N.Y., the youngest daughter of Spencer and Jennie Knapp, who had 14 children. When she was 18, she moved to New York City and worked there for several years. She then moved to Schenectady, where she met and married Mark Nadeau. She moved to Hop River Homes in Andover in 2012 to be closer to her daughter, Jenifer.

She was a member of the Schenectady LORE (Ladies of the Rotterdam Elks) and Rebekahs groups and was very active in both organizations, holding high office in the Rebekahs. She was also a member of the Andover Young At Heart. She was a whiz with numbers and loved doing the jumble in the newspaper. She also enjoyed watching hummingbirds, going for rides in the car, eating out and seeing the countryside. Her favorite activities were bingo and spending time with friends and family.

She is survived by her daughter Jenifer Nadeau and partner David Mihalek of Andover, and sons Bruce Nadeau and his wife Kim of Herkimer, N.Y., and Ronald Nadeau and his partner Stephanie Chiocco of Little Falls, N.Y., and her grandchildren Philip, Marc, Catherine, and Megan Nadeau and Kevin Bennett. She is also survived by her brother, Nelson Knapp Sr., and her devoted nephew, Nelson Knapp Jr., as well as numerous other nieces, nephews and cousins.

Special thanks to the previous VNA East, Community Companions and Homemakers, Harmony Home Care, and the staff at Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation where she lived for the past year and two months and received compassionate and loving care.

A private graveside service will be held in New York.

For online condolences, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Helen Louise Badrick

Helen Louise (McArthur) Badrick, 91, of East Hampton, died peacefully Sunday, Sept. 24, at Chestelm Health Care in Moodus. Born June 23, 1926, in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Peter and Elsie (Ray) McArthur.

Helen was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and had worked at Bevin Brothers until the age of 80. She is survived by her sons, Peter McArthur and wife Arlene of East Hampton, Joseph Badrick and wife Susan of Moodus, Jack Badrick and wife Sandy of East Hampton; daughter, Arlene Cocchiarella of Colchester; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her sister, Dorothy Palmer.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Friday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m., in St. Bridget of Kildare Church in Moodus. Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice Program, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Marlborough

Russell A. Schwarzmann

Russell A. Schwarzmann, 85, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Monday morning, Feb. 27, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by the sound of his wife and daughters telling him that they loved him.

Russ was born Feb. 24, 1932, in Tenafly, N.J., to George and Gladys Schwarzmann. He graduated from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania and became a mechanical engineer. For 37 years, Russ worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company in East Hartford designing airplane engine parts (for which he was granted many patents), right up until the day he retired. He served our country as a United States Army Reservist and believed that everyone has a civic responsibility to vote and participate in our government and community in some way or another.

Russ married Violet Hassler June 21, 1958, and lived in Marlborough for the last 57 years. He had the most fun when family was around and enjoyed doing lots of activities with his wife and children.

Russ is survived by his wife of 58 years, Violet, and his six daughters: Valorie (Tom), Kathy, Lisa (Daniel), Kristin (Chuck), Karleen (Jeff) and Karen; eight grandchildren, Ashley (Andrew), Ryan, Carmen, Tommy, Alan, Petra, Seaghan and Quintin, and a new great-grandson, Max; and many nieces and nephews. Russ is also survived by his sister, Josephine Haight, and was predeceased by both of his parents, his brother, Warren, and his favorite Aunt Eleanor.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, at 10:30 a.m., in the Marlborough Congregational Church followed by entombment in the family mausoleum in Marlboro Cemetery. A reception will follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association Inc., P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

“Now’s not the time to talk about it.”

How often have we heard those words whenever we bring up increasing gun control after a mass shooting like the hideous one we saw in Las Vegas Sunday night?

It's too soon, the argument typically goes. *The murders just happened. Families are still grieving.*

The thing is, I get that line of thinking. My instinctual reaction, in fact, is to agree. Maybe it is too soon; maybe we should wait at least a day or two.

But the reality is it never gets talked about. There’s never a point after one of these shootings where the ones who say “now’s not the time” decide “okay, it’s been enough time, we can talk about it now.” Everyone moves on, to the latest crisis du jour, and nothing ever gets done.

So now is exactly the time to talk about it. If not now, when?

Yes, I know Stephen Paddock bought all his guns legally. And, with no criminal history or history of mental illness whatsoever, no universal background check would’ve stopped him. But that doesn’t make universal background checks a bad idea.

Things that maybe would’ve stopped him, or at least perhaps mitigated the damage? Put a freaking cap on what one person can buy. According to *Newsweek*, when officers burst into Paddock’s room at the Mandalay Bay Hotel, they found a whopping 23 guns, including high-powered rifles capable of penetrating police armor. Then, while searching his home in Mesquite, Nev., police discovered another 19 weapons, several thousand rounds of ammunition, and explosives.

Nevada has no limit on the amount of firearms a person can own. None. So people can build up these massive arsenals, and, as far as the law is concerned, everything is ginger peachy. This shouldn’t be. I admit I don’t hunt, but why in the world would you need to own more than 40 weapons to, say, go shoot deer or geese? Heck, what could you possibly need explosives for?

Also, it’s not legal in this country to buy automatic rifles that were made after 1986. So Paddock’s guns were all of the semi-au-

tomatic variety. But get this: according to police, at least one of his rifles had been *legally* modified to make it fire like an automatic rifle. So you can’t buy automatic rifles, but you can buy things that essentially turn semi-automatic rifles into automatic ones? That makes no sense. Would making it illegal to modify the weapon have stopped Paddock? Probably not. But there’d be no harm in trying.

Like I said, Paddock’s guns were semi-automatics, AR-15s and AK-47s, military-style assault weapons. Again, I don’t hunt, but why does a civilian need to own a military-style weapon to go hunting? What’s wrong with using a classic hunting rifle? Is Bambi’s mother really going to fire back? From where I sit, the average person simply does not need to own an assault-style anything.

Look, I don’t want to ban guns. I know several people that use them, sensibly, to hunt and for protection. But when you’re seeing this many people killed, over and over and over again, some changes need to be made. Maybe establish a limit to the number of guns a person can own – a *federal* limit at that, so that states like Nevada can’t skate by with no limit at all. Maybe decide that, if automatic weapons can’t be legal, perhaps we shouldn’t make it legal to essentially turn other guns into automatic weapons.

And for crying out loud, establish universal background checks. Would it have made a difference in this case? Again, no, likely not. But there have certainly been mass shootings in recent years where it would have.

Don’t listen to the negativity. Don’t listen to those who say there’s no reason to make any change to gun control legislation; the way I see it, there’s no reason *not* to make a change.

And above all, don’t listen to those who say now is not the time to talk about it. Now is exactly the time to talk about it. Something needs to happen before the next horrific mass shooting.

If not now, when?

* * *

See you next week.